

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** January 03, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on December 28, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response (Fire) at the Double Eagle Steel Coating Company, Dearborn, Michigan**

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster responded to a fire at the Double Eagle Steel Coating Company in Dearborn, Michigan, on Saturday, December 15, 2001. The Double Eagle Company is an active zinc and alloy steel plating facility. A fire of unknown origin started at or near the facility's sixth floor plating production line around 12:30pm. U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Detroit notified the National Response Center of the fire, based on a news report. Both MSO Detroit and U.S. EPA responded to the scene due to the potential for hazardous materials to be involved in the fire. The Dearborn Fire Department and the Wayne County HIRT also responded to the fire.

Although it was determined that no hazardous materials were involved in the fire, the burning building structures initially produced large quantities of thick smoke. U.S. EPA's START contractor conducted perimeter air monitoring at the scene in conjunction with Wayne County. No volatile organic compounds above background levels were detected. In addition, no acid gases were detected during this air monitoring. Slightly elevated levels of particulate matter were detected during a small flare-up of the fire; however, this is not unusual for any

structure fire. MSO Detroit, U.S. EPA, and the START contractors conducted periodic monitoring of a nearby storm sewer outfall. This monitoring indicated neutral pH levels, with no visible impacts to the waterway or area wildlife.

Due to the building design, all of the plating solutions were drained to basement storage tanks at the time of the emergency, and were not engaged in the fire. In addition, most of the water generated from the fire fighting activities collected in the building basement, which was designed as secondary containment for these storage tanks. The facility is currently analyzing the collected water and plating solutions and arranging for appropriate disposal. Remediation activities are expected to take some time, as large sections of the building have been deemed not fit for occupancy due to extensive fire damage.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

**Removal Action Completed: Jepsco Metals Site, Dixon, Lee County, Illinois**

The time-critical removal action at the Jepsco Metals site was completed on December 17, 2001. Jepsco Metals was a 32 acre secondary aluminum processing plant that recycled aluminum dross, a waste product of aluminum casting. The dross was shipped to Jepsco Metals from various sources, and was processed by using two smelting furnaces to produce aluminum product and an aluminum oxide waste (slag). Jepsco Metals accumulated slag and baghouse dust in waste piles and fill areas throughout the site property. The Jepsco Metals Site has been abandoned since 1998, after a fire destroyed much of the facility.

The removal action, which began in September 2001, included the removal and commercial disposal of 52,000 cubic yards (cy) of composited slag, baghouse dust, contaminated soils/sediment, various compressed gas cylinders, and above ground storage tanks. The smelting furnaces and baghouse equipment was cleaned, demolished and removed. Five transite paneled buildings which contained friable asbestos insulation, were cleaned of friable asbestos, demolished and removed. All excavated areas were re-graded and seeded. Excavated ditches were sloped to promote drainage. Lee County is working to redevelop the property for agricultural or commercial use.

Contacts: Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)  
Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)

Bill Ryczek (312-886-7184)

**Administrative Order by Consent Signed for Blue Ribbon Paint Site, Richland, Ohio**

The Responsible Party for the Blue Ribbon Paint Company site signed an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) on December 6, 2001, for removal at the site in Richland Township, Ohio. The AOC requires the owners of the site to perform the removal and disposal of a number of deteriorating drums containing hazardous materials, and surrounding contaminated soil. The owners have since complied and completed the cleanup according to the terms of the AOC. The estimated value of the work performed was \$10,000.

Contact: Debra Haidar (440-250-1744)

**Robert Betz Memorial Trust Property, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On November 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 started the Phase II removal action at the Robert Betz Memorial Trust Property site (Betz site) located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. U.S. EPA removed arsenic and lead contaminated soil and debris from the residential property located immediately east of the Betz site. The removal action was completed on November 17, 2001. All contaminated soil was transported off-site to a licensed landfill for disposal.

Contact: Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**The Oil Spill Exercise Generator Software**

Since August 2001, the Oil Planning and Response Section (OPRS) has copied and distributed 600 copies of the Oil Spill Exercise Generator to 45 countries worldwide and to all 50 States. The Oil Spill Exercise Generator was developed by US EPA Region 5 and Purdue University. The software was developed to assist those responsible for planning an oil spill exercise or response drill to complete the task of preparing for that exercise in a shorter period of time. The program contains database-driven programs that construct an oil spill exercise. There are checklists for use in a final evaluation report, scenarios, and seasonal weather data for all States and territories in Canada. One can also

select implementation messages which are delivered throughout the course of the exercise to move the activity along. You can add appropriate references to customize the scenario and messages to a locality. The software is available to the public for free through OPRS. The public fills requests through the EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/oilspill.html>.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Western Lake Superior Sub-Area Port Area Committee (PAC) Meetings, Duluth, Minnesota and Houghton, Michigan**

The quarterly Western Lake Superior Sub-Area Port Area Committee (PAC) meetings were held in Duluth, Minnesota, on December 11, 2001, and in Houghton, Michigan, on December 12, 2001. The Western Lake Superior PAC mirrors the area of responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard's Duluth Marine Safety Office, which follows Lake Superior from northern Minnesota, across Wisconsin, and beyond the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan. Because of the vast area covered by the PAC, two meetings are held: one in Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin, and the other in Houghton, Michigan. The Western Lake Superior PAC is comprised of representatives from Federal (U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA), State (MPCA, MDEM, WDNR, WDEM, MDEQ, MI State Police) and local (County managers, fire departments) governments, as well as local tribal and industry representatives.

Items discussed at the PAC meetings included a discussion of local Port Security Issues by the U.S. Coast Guard, a presentation of crude oil recovery on a frozen river by the MPCA, and a discussion of wildlife rehabilitation resources in Duluth/Superior area by the Minnesota Wildlife Action Committee (MWAC). On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster represented the U.S. EPA at both PAC meetings. OSC Jaster presented an overview of Counter Terrorism activities undertaken by Region V's Emergency Response Branch, particularly in response to the events of September 11. This PowerPoint presentation covered on-going response activities at the World Trade Center, Washington D.C., and locally in Region V. Roundtable discussions were held at both PAC meetings regarding how local responders are approaching suspected biological terrorism incidents. The next round of PAC meetings will be held in Duluth and Houghton in March 2002.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

### **Red River Planning Meeting, Thief River Falls, Minnesota**

On January 27, 2000 Ann Whelan met with the Northwest Region of Minnesota Emergency Management to discuss planning for spills along the Red River of the North in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. This group of about 25 Emergency Managers represent counties including ones that border the Red River. An Area Plan is being developed for the Red River in conjunction with Region 8 and North Dakota.

Contact: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

### **CEPP Program Managers Meeting and National HazMat Conference**

On December 10 Mark Horwitz, along with Robert Mayhugh and John Elkmann, attended the winter CEPP Program Managers Meeting that was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Topics discussed included program resources, strategic direction, implementation of Regional implementation CAA RMP and the status of HQ developed computer software, i.e., CAMEO, Landview, and a new program entitled TIER 2 Submit.

From December 11-13 Mark Horwitz, Robert Mayhugh and John Elkmann attended the biennial National Spills Conference. The Conference was sponsored jointly by the EPA Headquarters Chemical Emergency and Preparedness Program and USEPA Region 3. The focus of the conference had shifted from its traditional role in preventing and responding to accidental releases to responding to acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. An impressive panel of speakers and work sessions were devoted to these topics. Actual attendance at the conference exceeded 1,700, this from an anticipated pre-conference estimate of 1,000.

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 Robert Mayhugh (312-886-5929)  
 John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

### **National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Meeting in Seattle, Washington**

During the week of December 3-6, 2001, the NEJAC convened in Seattle, Washington. The principle theme was the relationship between water quality, fish consumption and environmental

justice. One of the major output from the meeting was the development of a NEJAC Strategic Plan. This strategic plan outlines how NEJAC provides advice designed to promote the fair treatment of all peoples, including minority, low income, indigenous, and agricultural worker populations and federally recognized tribes, in EPA decision making.

The NEJAC has six (6) sub committees: Air and Water, Enforcement, Health and Research, Indigenous People, International and Waste and Facility Siting. These sub committees met individually to discuss EJ issues. I attended the Waste and Facility Siting meeting. Ray Rivera, OSWER, was introduced as the Designated Federal Official for the Waste and Facility Siting Sub-Committee. Linda Garczynski, OSWER and Mike Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA, OSWER, gave the welcome and introductions for the sub-committee. Mr Shapiro also listed Marianne Horinko's priorities for OSWER and they are : addressing terrorism, developing a one clean-up initiative, building on the brownfields program, recycling and pollution prevention through pilots and developing regulations, retail initiatives- working with the public to understand actions of the community and addressing the developing workforce.

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